Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /082 W

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R 201641Z JUN 74 FM AMEMBASSY BERN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9182 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN USMISSION GENEVA AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH AMEMBASSY VIENNA

CONFIDENTIAL BERN 2343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SCUL, CB, GE, GW, AU, CZ, TH SUBJECT: KHMER STUDENTS IN EAST EUROPE

REF: A) PHNOM PENH 7771; B) BERLIN 1011

- 1. EMBOFF RECENTLY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW STATUS OF KHMER STUDENTS IN EAST EUROPE WITH COUNSELOR KOSALAK AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR MAO OF KHMER EMBASSY. LATTER HAS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KHMER STUDENTS IN EUROPE.
- 2. MAO'S INFORMATION ESSENTIALLY CONFIRMED THAT CONTAINED IN REFS A AND B. OF 52 KHMER STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN EASTERN EUROPE WHO WISH TO CONTINUE STUDIES ELSEWHERE, TWO HAVE INDEPENDENTLY FOUND SCHOLARSHIPS IN PARIS. FOR REMAINING 50, FRG HAS OFFERED 10 SCHOLARSHIPS, AUSTRIA 3 AND SWITZERLAND 4, ALL PROVIDED THAT THE STUDENTS CAN MEET REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY UNIVERSITIES. (MAO MENTIONED THAT FRG IS PROVIDING FOUR ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN PHNOM PENH). NONE OF THE 17 APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS HAS BEEN FULLY APPROVED.
- 3. EMBOFF RAISED QUESTION WHETHER GOS MIGHT BE WILLING TO INCREASE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KHMER STUDENTS. BOTH CONFIDENTIAL

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KHMER EMB OFFICIALS STATED THEIR STRONG BELIEF THAT SWISS

HAVE ALREADY GIVEN THE MAXIMUM AND THAT THERE IS NO GIVE IN THEIR POSITION. (EMBOFF ASCERTAINED INDEPENDENTLY THAT GOS SETS ASIDE 50 SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY FOR STUDENTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; THE FOUR FOR KHMER STUDENTS THUS REPRESENTS SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE.)

4. IN LIGHT OF APPARENT SENSITIVITY ON PART OF KHMERS FOR US TO CARRY BALL FOR THEM WITH SWISS AND VIRTUALLY HOPELESS OUTLOOK FOR OBTAINING ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS HERE, WE SUGGEST THAT APPROACH SUGGESTED REF B NOT BE MADE IN BERN. PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FOREIGN STUDENT EXCHANGE, EDUCATION GRANTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 JUN 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERN02343

Document Number: 1974BERN02343 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740162-0362

From: BERN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740630/aaaaazaq.tel

Line Count: 73

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: A) PHNOM PENH 7771; B) BERLIN 1011

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22 MAR 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <09 MAY 2002 by golinofr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: KHMER STUDENTS IN EAST EUROPE TAGS: EAID, SCUL, CB, GC, GE, AU, CZ, TH

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005